



saturn apartments



7

Hisae
Iwaoka

**A touching, character-rich vision of
an intriguing new world.**

The Ring System, a structure constructed in space when Earth was abandoned as an environmental preserve, contains a society divided by money and status. Mitsu, a sixteen-year-old lower-level window washer whose father was killed when he fell from the surface of the Ring, struggles to define his role in this stifling and segregated civilization. Unsafe living conditions and unrest among the residents ravage the lower levels, but Mitsu and his colleagues also struggle with loneliness and thwarted ambitions. In the final volume of *Saturn Apartments*, Mitsu must decide whether he will descend to the surface of the earth in an experimental device and attempt to change the fate of the Ring System forever.

www.sigikki.com

Hisae Iwaoka is the creator of several one-shot manga, including *Hana Boro* (Flower Cookies) and *Shiroi Kumo* (White Clouds), both of which were serialized in *IKKI* magazine. Her art installations have been displayed internationally in the group show "Tokyo Girls Bravo," curated by Takashi Murakami. *Saturn Apartments* is her most recent series.

saturn apartments

Hisae
Iwaoka

saturn
apartments 7
HISAE IWAOKA



saturn apartments 7

FLOOR 54. QUIET PROCESSION 003

FLOOR 55. CROSSROADS 024

FLOOR 56. THE PLACE OF MEMORIES 047

FLOOR 57. PROMISE 067

FLOOR 58. CHANGE 087

FLOOR 59. THE SAME PLACE 107

FLOOR 60. UNVEILING THE SHIP 131

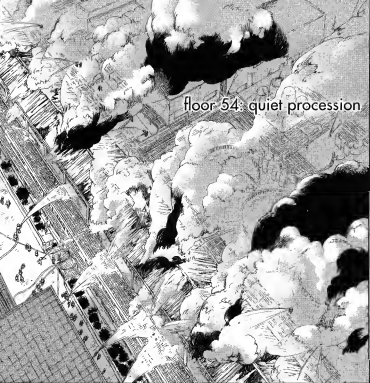
FLOOR 61. EACH OF THEIR THOUGHTS 155

FLOOR 62. END OF THE CONNECTED PATHS 178

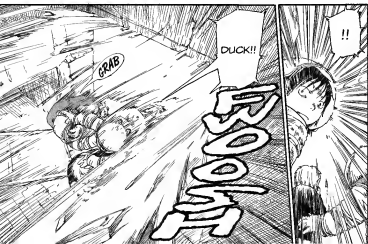
GROUND FLOOR. TO THE SURFACE 203

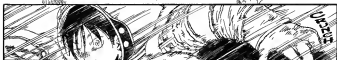
IN THE LOFT. HOMELAND IN THE SKY 243













"I'D LIKE MITSU
TO SEE THIS
SOMEDAY."

"IT'S
INCREDIBLE....
ISN'T IT,
TAMACHI?"

...

AKI ONCE
RESCUED
ME THE
SAME WAY.

HE...

...
PATCHED
ME UP
TOO.

SHD

JUST
LIKE
MITSU
WAS
NOW...

AKI WAS
CALM
THAT
TIME.

YOU



...the image
that Aki
wanted him
to see?



So Mitsu
has already
looked
upon...

And I
haven't
been
standing
still
either...



Time is
moving
forward.
Slowly but
surely...



























ONE BOY
WILL
CHANGE
OUR
WORLD.



HE IS
OUR
RAY OF
HOPE.



floor 55: crossroads









EVERY-
ONE'S
HERE.



BROTHER
MI.

AH, NO ONE
COULD GO
HOME
BECAUSE
OF THE
SMOKE.



THIS
ONE'S
FLUFFY.



I TOLD
YOU WE'D
ALL BE
BACK.

YEAH.



I'M
GONNA
BE A
WINDOW
WASHER
TOO.

YEAH.

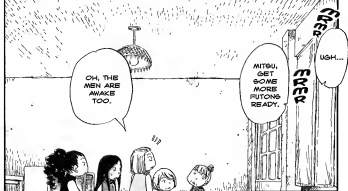


BROTHER
MI,
EVERYONE
LOOKS
SO
COOOOL..

YOU
THINK?

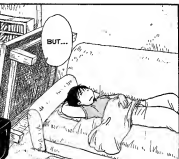










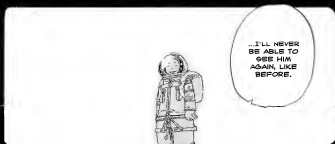


BUT...

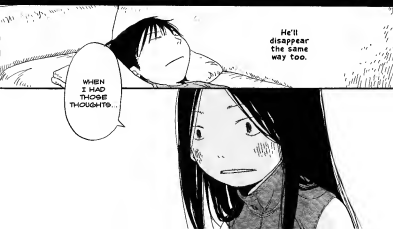


...AND I
THOUGHT I
WOULDN'T
CARE EVEN
IF THEY
DIDN'T
NOTICE MY
FEELINGS.

I HAD NO
INTENTION OF
TELLING
SOMEONE I
LIKED THEM,
EVEN IF I
FELL IN
LOVE...



...I'LL NEVER
BE ABLE TO
SEE HIM
AGAIN, LIKE
BEFORE.



WHEN
I HAD
THOSE
THOUGHTS...

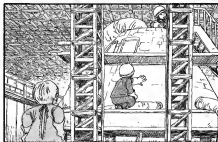
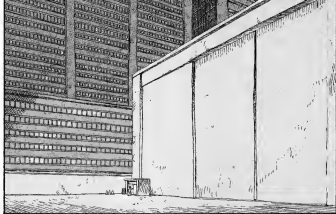
He'll
disappear
the same
way too.











WHOA!

THEN
EVERYONE
WILL KNOW
HOW GOOD
YOU ARE.

WHEN
THIS IS
COMPLETE,
LET'S
ANNOUNCE
IT IN A
BIG WAY.

ALL
RIGHT,
DO
YOUR
BEST.

YOU
CONTINUE
WITH YOUR
WORK.

WE WILL,
BUT WE
DON'T HAVE
ENOUGH
POWER. IT'S
GETTING
HARDER.





YOU ARE
GOING
THERE.



I'VE
MADE UP
MY MIND.

BUT I'D
LIKE TO
GO TO THE
SURFACE.



...IT WILL
BE A
SUCCESS.

IF WE DO
AS MR.
NISHIMARU
SAYS...

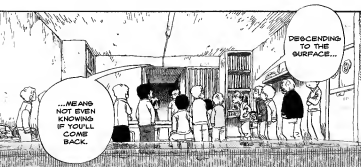


I'VE BEEN
ASSIGNED
THINGS
TO DO.

AND
THERE'S
SOME-
THING ONLY
I CAN DO.

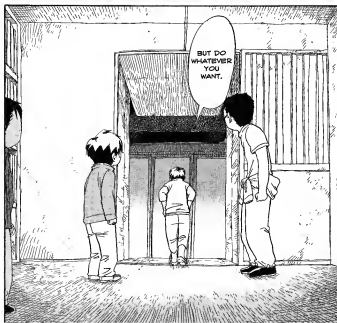












floor 56:
the place of memories

HUFF
HUFF...

PLEASE
...

KACH
KACH
KACH
KACH
KACH

Beep
Beep
Beep
Beep

PLEASE
OPEN
THE
DOOR.

I'M
LOCKED
IN THE
LOWER
LEVEL.

YOU
RECOGNIZE
MY PASSCODE.
I'M A PUBLIC
PEACE BUREAU
OFFICIAL.
CONNECT ME
TO THE
BUREAU.



!

AA



STOP.

GRAB

HE'S
THE ONE.

YOU
KILLED A
LOWER-
LEVEL
RESIDENT.

FOUND
HIM.



THE
LOWER-
LEVEL
RESIDENTS
WILL KILL
ME IF I
STAY
HERE...











...



...BUT HE'S STUPID, SO HE DIDN'T UNDERSTAND.

I WARNED MITSU NOT TO GO...



BUT I ALWAYS HAD AN APPLICATION READY SO HE COULD GET BACK TO WORK WHENEVER HE DECIDED TO.

AKI'S PASS...HIS PERMIT TO MOVE BETWEEN LEVELS... I'VE ALREADY GIVEN IT TO MITSU, AND IT MUST'VE EXPIRED BY NOW.



...



...FOR AKI.

JIN... YOU'RE STILL WAITING...



I'M TOO TIRED TO GO THROUGH THE SAME THING AGAIN.



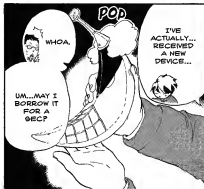
BUT... DID HE, DID AKI RETURN?



MITSU WILL RETURN BEFORE HIS PASS EXPIRES.



THINGS WILL BE ALL RIGHT.









SORRY
I QUIT
FIRST.



HA
HA
HA.

YEAH,
I STILL
FEEL
THAT
WAY.



...YOU'D
BECOME
A BETTER
WINDOW
WASHER
THAN
ME.



YOU
TOLD
ME A
LONG
TIME
AGO...



I CAN'T
EVEN
CATCH
UP TO
YOU
NOW...



OL?

YEAH.



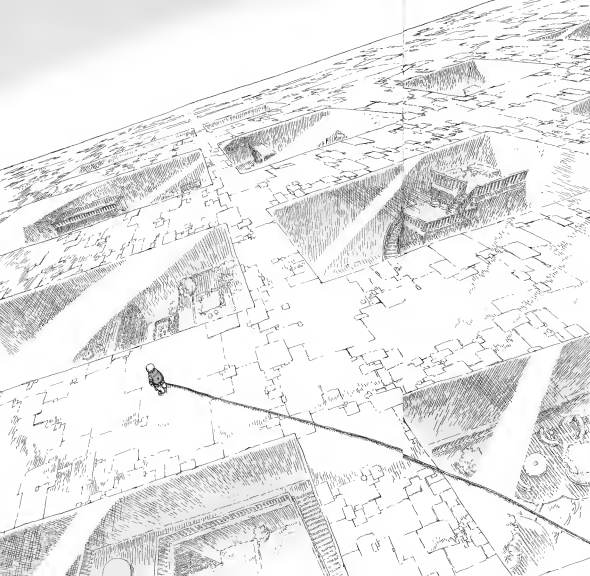
...SO YOU'LL
ALWAYS BE
MY GOAL.



THANKS



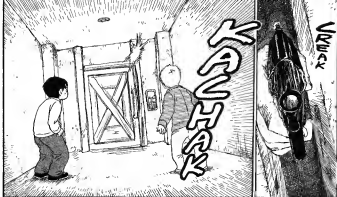












DO THE
OTHER AREAS
KNOW ABOUT
THIS MATTER?

WE CANNOT
AFFORD TO
LET THE NEWS
SPREAD ABOUT
TROUBLES AND
RIOTS AND
SUCH THINGS.

THE HARMONIOUS
BALANCE OF EACH
AREA IN THE RING
SYSTEM WOULD BE
DESTROYED.

THE LOWER
LEVELS OF D
SECTOR ARE IN
CONFUSION
DUE TO THE
FIRE.

THERE'RE
APPARENTLY
RUMORS THAT
AN UPPER-LEVEL
RESIDENT
KILLED A
LOWER-LEVEL
RESIDENT.

I WAS
ACCUSED
OF
BEING A
MURDERER
...

—THE
LOWER-
LEVEL GUY
SUDDENLY
ATTACKED
ME.



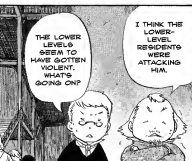
IF WE OPEN
UP THE
LOWER
LEVELS NOW
THERE
WOULD BE
RIOTS.

floor 57: promise













I MUST
GO TO
THE
MIDDLE
LEVELS TO
GET MY
MEDICINE...

I'VE GOT A
CHRONIC
ILLNESS...

I'LL TAKE
YOU TO A
CLINIC
LATER.

I CAN'T
STOP
COUGHING
AFTER I
INHALED
THE
SMOKE...

But
I'm sorry,
it's an
unpleasant
one.

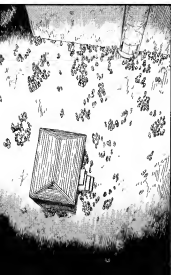


I KNOW A
PHARMACIST,
SO I'LL ASK
WHETHER HE
HAS IT.

YOU KNOW
THE NAME
OF THE
MEDICINE?

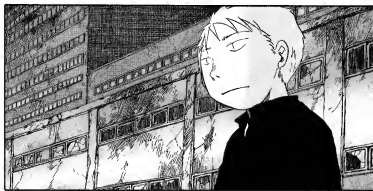
YOU
GOTTA BE
WORRIED.

MR.
KAGEYA-
MA...



DO I HAVE
ENOUGH OF
MY MEDS?

YEAH, I'D
FORGOTTEN
ABOUT
THAT
TOO.











...WHEN
YOU HAVE
NOTHING
TO
PROTECT
ANYMORE?

WHY'RE
YOU STILL
TRYING TO
PROTECT
YOUR
POSITION...

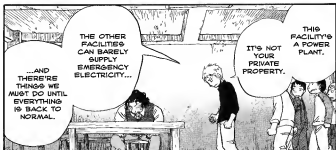
AT LEAST
CONSIDER
THE
DAMAGE
THIS
ACCIDENT
CAUSED.



!



ENOUGH
ALREADY.



...AND
THERE'RE
THINGS WE
MUST DO UNTIL
EVERYTHING
IS BACK TO
NORMAL.

THE OTHER
FACILITIES
CAN BARELY
SUPPLY
EMERGENCY
ELECTRICITY...

IT'S NOT
YOUR
PRIVATE
PROPERTY.

THIS
FACILITY'S
A POWER
PLANT.



...AND
RESTORE
THEM.

ONLY YOU
AND I CAN
COMPARE
THINGS TO
THEIR
PREVIOUS
CONDITION...













AH!
GOHTA, MR.
NISHIMARU.

OH,
MITSU.

WE WERE
COMING
TO SEE
YOU.



WE DON'T
KNOW...

WHEN WILL
THE LOWER
LEVELS BE
OPENED UP
AGAIN?



...THAT
WE MUST
PROVE OUR
EXISTENCE.

MR.
NISHIMARU
SAID
BEFORE...

NO.

DID
SOMETHING
HAPPEN
TO MR.
KAGEYAMA?

STAKE

HUHP

IF WE
DON'T
HURRY, MR.
KAGEYAMA
...



IF THINGS
CONTINUE
LIKE THIS,
PEOPLE
WILL DIE
FOR
NOTHING.

THEY
DON'T
KNOW
WE'RE
LOCKED
UP HERE,
EITHER.



NEWS ABOUT
THIS FIRE
HASN'T BEEN
REPORTED IN
THE UPPER
LEVELS.



WE GOTTA DO
SOMETHING.

WHY CAN'T
PEOPLE GO
TO THE
HOSPITALS
NOW, WHEN
THEY NEED
IT MOST?









MITSUO,
HOW'RE
YOU
DOING?

WILL THIS
DO AS
TRAINING
FOR AN
EMERGENCY
EXIT?

UGH.

WAH.



!



YES, I CAN
USE MY
FATHER'S
COMPANY'S
RADIO WIVES.

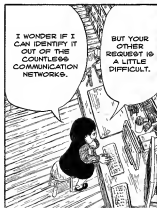
WHAT?
YOU'RE
READY TO
BROADCAST?



IS THAT
GOHTAP?



K
R
I
N
G



I WONDER IF I
CAN IDENTIFY IT
OUT OF THE
COUNTLESS
COMMUNICATION
NETWORKS.

BUT YOUR
OTHER
REQUEST IS
A LITTLE
DIFFICULT.



WAH.

YES.

GOOD!
WE'RE
STEADILY
MAKING
PROGRESS.



I'M
PRETTY
TOUGH...

I'LL
DO IT.

...THOUGH
I'LL BE
FIGHTING
AGAINST
TIME.



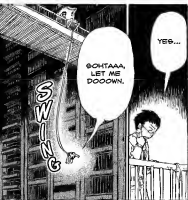
I HATE TO
SAY THIS,
BUT YOU'RE
THE ONLY
ONE WE CAN
ASK FOR
HELP.

PLEASE, WILL
YOU FIND IT
SOMEHOW?



YOU
MUST BE
INVOLVING
OTHER
PEOPLE IN
THIS TOO.

I FIND THIS
PROJECT
INTERESTING,
BUT I FEEL
I'M DOING
SOMETHING
ILLEGAL AS
WELL.



SOHTAAA,
LET ME
DOOOWN.

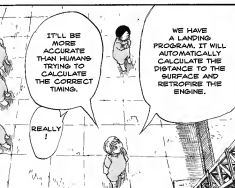
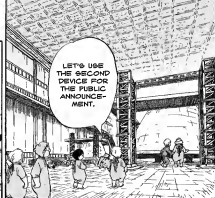
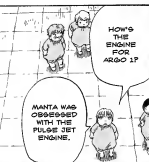
YES...



PLEASE..
MAKE SURE
WTSU
DESCENDS
SAFELY

SWING









The lower levels cannot stay silent anymore.

We must change both the upper and lower levels.



He's facing in the same direction as I am.



I'M SURPRISED YOU CAME UP WITH THIS IDEA AT A TIME LIKE THIS.

THE LOWER LEVELS ARE IN A STATE OF UPEHAVAL, WITH SO MUCH WORRY AND CONFUSION.



THOSE UPPER-LEVEL GUYS WILL TAKE A NEW LOOK AT US.

IF WE CAN REALLY DESCEND TO THE SURFACE, THE LOWER LEVELS WILL BE PROUD AND HAPPY.



A dream...



WE MUST HAVE A DREAM.

EVERYONE IS EXHAUSTED.

No, I'll
change
things.

Yes,
things
will
change...

THAT'S
THE
GOAL.

WILL THE
UPPER-
LEVEL
PEOPLE
LOOK
AT US
DIFFER-
ENTLY?

WILL THEY
UNDER-
STAND THAT
SKILLED
CRAFTS-
PEOPLE
LIVE HERE?



...my wife
Makie
passed
away.



The day
the power
plant
exploded,
early in the
morning...



...but
she
was
gone.

She
was
still
warm...



What
was my
dream?

Who
took
Makie's
dream
away?

My world
changed
because
one
person
died.





They funded the project and enjoyed it. They set it up like a game.

They killed that boy.

Upper-level residents were involved in its development.

There was a program to make Argo's engine explode.

Who's not going to fight back when they've been driven into a corner?

FIGHT.
IT WILL
BE
EASY.

REALIZE ...

...THAT
THE
UPPER-
LEVEL
RESIDENTS
ARE
LOOKING
DOWN
ON US.

This will be the last straw.

...will
change
the
world.

The
death
of one
boy...









...THAT
I KNEW
HIM THE
LEAST.

AND I
REALIZED
...

Father
was
warm
and
loving.

BUT NOW,
THANKS TO
ALL THE
WINDOW
WASHERS,
I KNOW HIM
WELL.



...I DIDN'T
REALLY
UNDER-
STAND
HIM TOO
WELL.

BECAUSE MY
FATHER
DISAPPEARED
WHEN I WAS
LITTLE...



...SO I WANT
TO DESCEND
TO THE
SURFACE.

I WANT TO
KNOW FATHER
A LITTLE
BETTER THAN
OTHER
PEOPLE...



DO YOU
REMEMBER?
THE WINDOW
THAT YOU
ASKED US
TO CLEAN.

YES, A
LOWER-LEVEL
WINDOW.



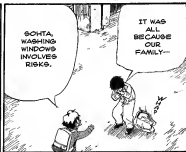
THE
LOWER
LEVELS.

THE
LOWER
LEVELS?



I WONDER
WHICH
WINDOW
HE WAS
CLEANING.

BUT
ISN'T
THAT...
HARD TO
BEAR?





DID I
CLEAN
THE
WINDOW
WELL?



WE WERE
ABLE TO
LOOK AT THE
SURFACE
PROPERLY
FOR THE
FIRST TIME...



YES, OF
COURSE.
IT WAS
AMAZING.

!



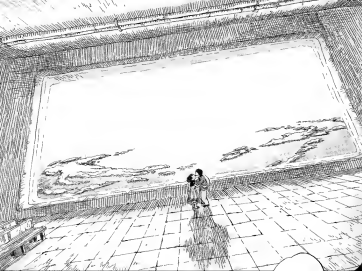
KAYO
WAS SO
HAPPY...



YES...

WE WENT
TO LOOK
AT THAT
WINDOW
TWICE.





IT WAS
BEAUTIFUL.





...IT
WAS
WORTH
IT.

THEN...



OOH.

YOU WERE
PUSHY IN
THE
BEGINNING
THOUGH.



I'M NOT
GOING TO
THE SURFACE
BECAUSE I'M
BEING
FORCED TO.

I'VE
ALREADY
MADE UP
MY MIND.



Wouldn't
Jen get
angry
about
that?

LET'S SAY
I WAS
ABLE TO
WORK LIKE
FATHER.

Heh



I'M ALREADY
A MEMBER
OF THIS
PROJECT.

SO I'M
GOING
RUNNING.



Sorry

AH
HA
HA.





floor 59: the same place

FW

floor 59: the same place

F
W
O
O
O
O
O
O
O
O

YEAH, I THINK WE CAN DESCEND TO THE SURFACE RIGHT AWAY.

THE ENGINE SEEMS TO BE WORKING WELL.

YEAH, I THINK WE CAN DESCEND TO THE SURFACE RIGHT AWAY.

THE ENGINE SEEMS TO BE WORKING WELL.





I HEARD THE ELEVATOR ENTRANCE HAS BECOME A SHELTER OF SORTS.

SHALL WE ANNOUNCE OUR PROJECT TO THE LOWER LEVEL?



WELL...

...



YES!

MANTA, YOU GO CHECK THINGS OUT.

THERE'RE STAIRS THERE TOO. PEOPLE WILL BE ABLE TO SEE THE LANDING FROM ANYWHERE.



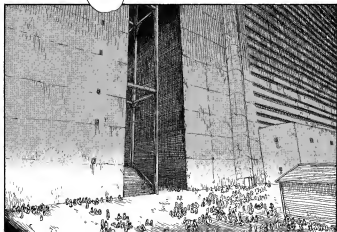
YOU DON'T INTEND FOR THE FIRST DEVICE TO RETURN AT ALL.



MR. NISHIMARU.



AND YOU ALL RETURN TO YOUR JOBS.





UGH...
PEOPLE
ARE
GETTING
VIOLENT
...



WHO
SAID
SO?

HEY,
THAT'S
MINE.

CUT
IT
OUT.



SO
THEY'RE
JUST
GOING TO
KEEP US
LOCKED
IN HERE...

IT'S
ALREADY
BEEN
THREE DAYS.
HOW MUCH
LONGER DO
WE HAVE TO
WAIT?



THAT
MEANS
HE'S
MAKING
SURE
MITSU WILL
RETURN.

MR.
NISHIMARU
SAID HE'S
MAKING THE
SECOND
DEVICE AS
"INSURANCE."

IN ANY
CASE,
I'M
GLAD...



IF WE TELL
PEOPLE
ABOUT THE
ARGO
PROJECT,
EVERYONE
WILL HAVE
HOPE.

SOON
THINGS
WILL GO
BAD.

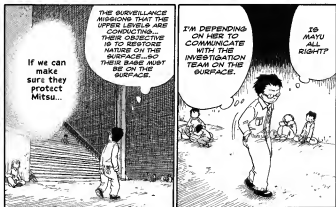


HELLO,
MAYUP



SOME-
THING
ELSE I
CAN DO
IS...

I HOPE
HE CAN
RETURN
ON THE
FIRST
DEVICE
SAFELY...







...THOUGH
I WAS
REALLY
JUST
WAITING
FOR HIM.

I WAS
GOING
OUT WITH
HIM...



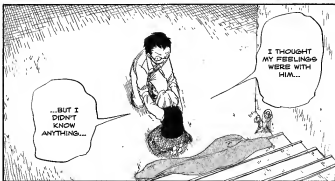
I...
I...

UH...



!

YOU
KNOW
HIM?!



...BUT I
DIDN'T
KNOW
ANYTHING...

I THOUGHT
MY FEELINGS
WERE WITH
HIM...



ALL I DID
WAS WAIT
FOR HIM...

I
COULDN'T
DO
ANYTHING
FOR HIM.



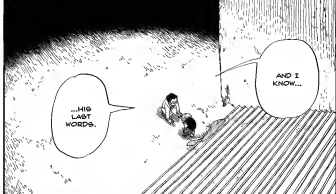
S
O
B

AND
BEFORE
I KNEW
IT...

S
O
B

HE...
LEFT HOME
WITHOUT
TELLING ME
ANYTHING.





IF
ONLY...
I COULD
HAVE...



...HEARD
HIM SAY IT
HIMSELF...

HE
PROBABLY
DIDN'T
TELL YOU
THE
IMPORTANT
THINGS...

...BUT KEPT
THEM LIKE
PRECIOUS
THINGS
IN HIS
HEART...

SOS.

...Oh?

SOS.

Yes...
if he'd
talked
to her...

I WISH
MORI-
SHITA...



...HAD
TALKED
TO YOU
EARLIER.

"SOHTA,
YOU TAKE
CARE OF
YOUR
WIFE..."



...WAS A
REALLY
NICE...
GUY...

MORE-
SHITA...



EVEN IF I
GO THERE
NOW, SHE'S
PROBABLY
TAKING
SHELTER
SOME-
WHERE
ELSE...

WHAT AM
I GONNA
ACCOM-
PLISH BY
RETURNING
TO AN
EMPTY
ROOM?



HURRY!

HUFF



I haven't
told Kayo
the
important
things
either.

...Kayo's
there as
always.



When
I get
home...



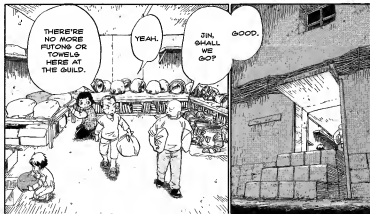
...and
since I
already
know how
it tastes,
I smile
and say
this.



There're
leftover
noodles
from
Kayo's
stall...















THEY WERE
HANDING
THEM OUT
AT THE
ELEVATOR
ENTRANCE.

I GOT
THEM
WHEN I
WENT TO
GET
MAKOTO'S
MEDICINE.



AH, THIS?
DRUGS AND
MEDICAL
SUPPLIES.

WHAT'RE
YOU
CARRY-
ING?



OF
COURSE
IT'D BE
DIFFER-
ENT.

...BUT THE
ATMOSPHERE
IS TOTALLY
DIFFERENT.

IT WAS
LIKE THE
FESTIVAL
AT THE
MIDDLE
LEVELS...



THERE
WERE SO
MANY
PEOPLE
THERE.

BY THE
WAY, DID
YOU GO
TO THE
ENTRANCES?



...she'll
keep
smiling
like
this...

I hope...



THE
FESTIVAL
WAS FUN.



...GOING
TO THE
SURFACE.

I'M...



WE'LL BE
ABLE TO
HAVE
ANOTHER
FESTIVAL

...forever...



"LET'S ALL
COME
TOGETHER
AGAIN."



?









I THOUGHT THE
ORDER OF A
PARACHUTE
TOGETHER
WITH FISHNETS
SEEMED
STRANGE.

BY
THE
WAY...

PRESIDENT
FUJIKI.

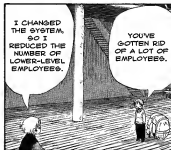
SO YOU
WERE
INVOLVED
WITH THIS.

floor 60:
unveiling the ship

I WAS ABLE
TO PUT THE
COMPANY
BACK ON
ITS FEET
QUITE A
BIT...

...ALTHOUGH
THE HUGE
QUANTITY OF
T-SHIRTS YOU
MADE WAS A
PROBLEM.







YOU DON'T INSPECT ENOUGH, SO THERE'RE MANY DEFECTIVE PRODUCTS.



SO YOU TOOK THE TROUBLE OF GOING TO THE FACTORY AND INSTRUCTED US?

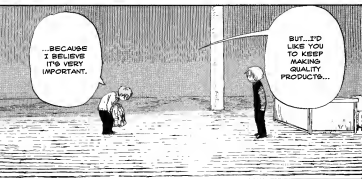
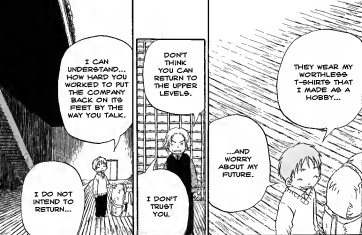


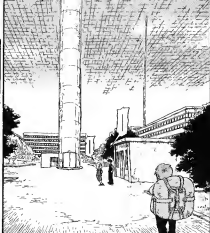
...BUT YOU WERE SO OBSESSED WITH QUALITY, YOUR PRODUCTS DIDN'T SELL AND YOU KEPT LOSING MONEY.

I CAN UNDERSTAND YOU WANT TO MAKE GOOD PRODUCTS...













YES.

THAT
WE'RE
LOCKED
UP HERE?



WON'T OUR
CLIENTS
REALIZE
SOMETHING'S
WRONG WITH
THE LOWER
LEVELS?



DID A
METEOR
FALL?

I HOPE
THE
RUPTURES
AREN'T
TOO
SERIOUS.



WE'VE GOT
REQUESTS
FOR
MAINTAINING
THE OUTSIDE
TOO.



...AND
CAUSE A
RIOT IN THE
MIDDLE
AND UPPER
LEVELS.



IF THE
ELEVATORS
START MOVING
NOW, THE GUYS
HANGING OUT
THERE WILL
JUMP AT THE
OPPORTUNITY...



WELL, I
PASSED
THROUGH THE
VENTILATION
DUCTS TO
COME TO THE
LOWER
LEVELS...

WHAT'S
UP,
BACH?



REALLY?

AND
SO I
SAW IT.



THEY'RE
DUMPING
GARBAGE
ON THE
SURFACE?

THAT'S
WHAT IT
LOOKED
LIKE...



THE SHUTTERS
WERE OPEN
AND I COULD
SEE THE
SURFACE.

AND I
GUESS IT'S
A GARBAGE
DISPOSAL
PLANT?



IN ANY
CASE!



AND THE
LOWER LEVELS
ARE FORCED
TO TAKE
RESPONSIBILITY
FOR IT AS WELL
AS MANAGING
IT.

SO THAT
KIND OF
THING IS ON
THE LOWER
LEVELS,
HUH?



MITSU, THE
SURFACE IS
SO CLOSE!

ARGO CAN
DESCEND
FROM
THERE!







THAT
SOUNDS
LIKE SO
MUCH
TROUBLE.

WELL, SO
YOU'VE
CHANGED
LIKE MITSU
WOULD.



AND SO...
I CHANGED
MYSELF
LITTLE...
BUT...

I FIGURED
OUT A LOT
OF THINGS
BY GETTING
TO KNOW
MYSELF.











WE'VE
BEEN
LOCKED
UP HERE!

LOWER-
LEVEL
RESIDENTS
...

GRIN



S
H
E
E
N

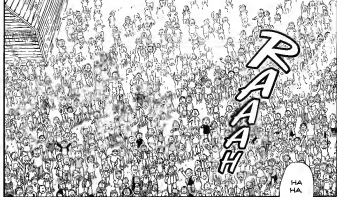
















floor 61: each of their thoughts

WE'RE
GOING TO
THE UPPER
LEVELS.

WE CAN
ONLY TAKE
A MAXIMUM
OF 15
STAFF UP
THERE.





...RIGHT, MAKOTOP

WE'LL
BARELY
BE ABLE
TO PAIR
EVERYONE
UP...



...BECAUSE
THE FIRE
HURT THEIR
FAMILY
MEMBERS,
OR THEY'RE
HURT THEM-
SELVES...

A LOT OF
WINDOW
WASHERS
CAN'T GO
THIS TIME...

YOU'LL WORK
IN PAIRS, PLUS
SAKU WILL BE
ACCOMPANYING
US UNDER THE
UPPER LEVEL'S
COMMAND.



....

AND
MITSU
CAN'T GO
EITHER.



I'M
SORRY,
I...

GO,
WHO'LL
GO IN
HIS
PLACE...



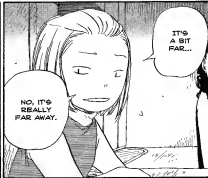
HE'S
CUTTING
WORK AND
IS GOING
THERE
ALONE.



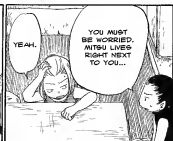
YEAH,
APPAR-
ENTLY.

JIN,
MITSU...
IS REALLY
GOING
TO THE
SURFACE?

















DON'T
MAKE UP
SOME
EXCUSE
AND SAY
NO.

TAMACHI.



BUT
THERE'S
NO ONE
ELSE WHO
CAN FILL IN
FOR ME.

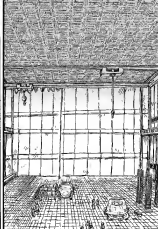
I WON'T
BE TAKING
TOO MUCH
TIME OFF.



...CAN
DO IT.

ONLY
YOU...





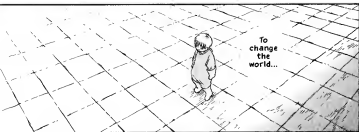




And our
world will
be changing
soon.

One boy will
change our
world.

I finished
developing the
explosion
mechanism...



To
change
the
world...



Because
it was my
dream?

Why
did I
want
to
change
it?









AH, I
FORGOT
TO ASK...

BEEP



THANK
YOU. I'LL
CALL YOU
LATER.



T
M
P



DID
I...

HEH
HEH...



NOW...

...people
get
angry.

When
you're
doing
your
best...



MITSU GOT
ANGRY AT
ME A LONG
TIME AGO.

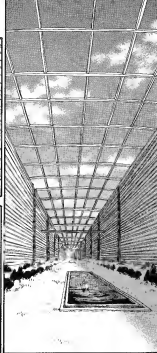




DON'T
THEY WANT
TO MAKE
THEIR
WORK
EASIER?

IF THIS
ROBOT IS
COMPLETE,
THEY'LL
HAVE LESS
WORK TO
DO.

I CAN'T
TAKE ANY
SAMPLES IF
THE WINDOW
WASHERS
DON'T COME.



THE
PEACE
BUREAU
OFFICIALS
ARE
USELESS.

MOTHER.
HOW
ARE
THINGS?



SHOULD
I...

...MAKE
ANOTHER
REQUEST?



SOME-
THING'S
WRONG,
MY DEAR.

JIN
HASN'T
BEEN
COMING
LATELY.



GRAND-MOTHER LOOKS INTENSE. I HAVEN'T SEEN HER LOOK THIS WAY FOR A LONG TIME.

DO YOU WANT ME TO FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON?

KKK
AAH



GRAND-MOTHER. WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO GET IN TOUCH WITH THE WINDOW WASHERS OR YUSUKE.

!



...BUT I COULDN'T FIND OUT ANYTHING ABOUT IT. SOMETHING'S WRONG.

SOME-THING MUST HAVE HAPPENED ...



I WONDER WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THE LOWER LEVEL?



I'D LIKE TO SEE HARUKO AND TALK ABOUT CHECKUPS TOO.

I WAS THINKING ABOUT VISITING MY PARENTS, SINCE I HAVEN'T SEEN THEM FOR A WHILE.

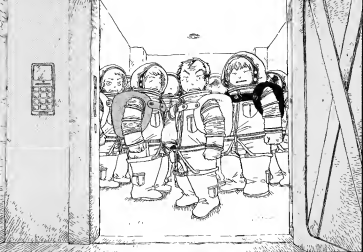
SOMETHING'S WRONG. I CAN'T GET IN TOUCH WITH THE LOWER LEVELS.



MIYU HASN'T COME EITHER.

THE WINDOW WASHERS HAVEN'T COME.







I'LL
FULFILL
MY
IMPORTANT
DUTIES
MYSELF.



THEY'RE
NEEDED
EVEN AT A
TIME LIKE
THIS.

KACHAK



HMP
SURE.

GOOD
LUCK WITH
YOUR JOB.



YEAH.

WHAT A
BOTHER. SO
EVERYONE
HAS THEIR
PASS.



I'VE GOT
EVERYONE'S
PASSES.

YEAH,
YEAH.

WHERE'RE
YOUR
PASSES?



GET
SOME
SLEEP.

ALL RIGHT.
WE'LL
LOWER
THE AIR
PRESSURE.



YOU
HAVEN'T
WASHED
WINDOWS
FOR AN
EVEN
LONGER
PERIOD...

...
TAMA-
CHI.



IT'S ONLY
BEEN TWO
WEEKS... BUT
I FEEL LIKE
I HAVEN'T
WASHED
WINDOWS
FOR MUCH
LONGER
THAN THAT.



GOOD.
YOU'VE
ALL HAD
SOME
SLEEP.

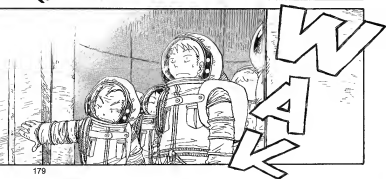
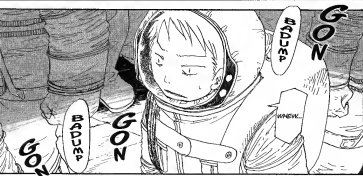
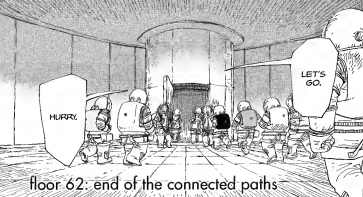
LET'S
GO,
THEN.

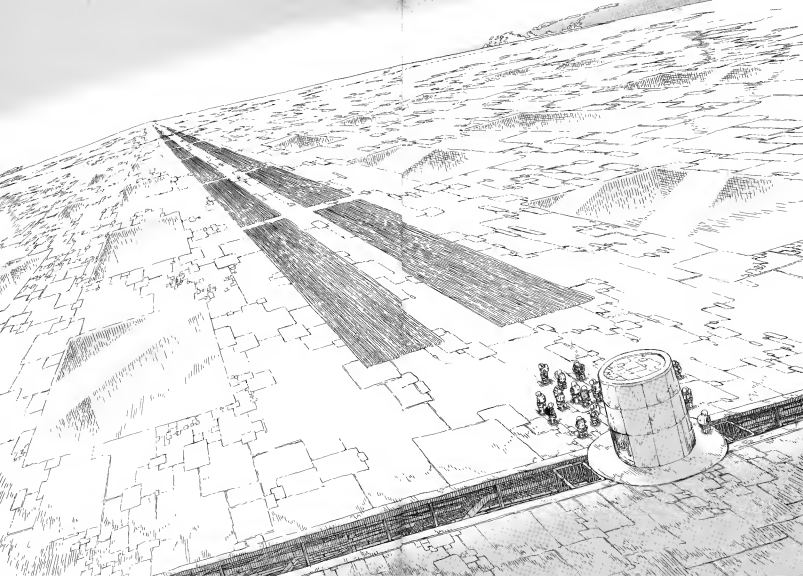
I wanted
to see
outside
the
windows.

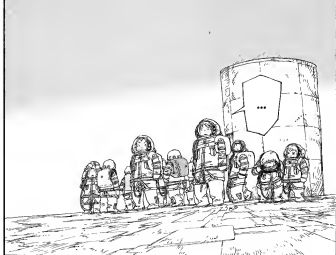


YOU'RE
RIGHT.



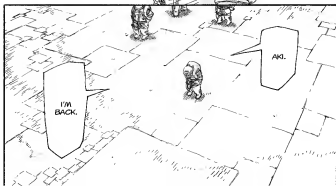






...this
is.

What
a quiet
place...





ALL RIGHT,
LET'S
START
WORKING.

YEEES.

...but I
felt the
wind
blow...

...as if
it were
answering
me.

I shouldn't
be able to
sense
anything...



...SO
THEY'RE
VISIBLE
FROM THE
SURFACE!

POINK

LISTEN,
MAKE THE
WINDOWS
SPARKLY
CLEAN...



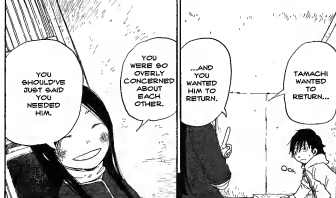
SO
WITSU...CAN
SEE THE
WINDOWS
NO MATTER
WHERE HE
IS...

SO HE CAN
RETURN NO
MATTER
WHERE HE
GOES!

...WE'LL
ALWAYS
BE WITH
HIM.

NO
MATTER
WHERE
HE IS...







SURE.



THE PLACE
WHERE MITSU
WILL DESCEND...
I WANT YOU TO
COME WITH ME,
SINCE YOU
KNOW THAT
PLACE.



WHAT
IS IT?!



FOUND
YOU!
SACHI!



SURE...

...



...BUT
SACHI, WILL
YOU HELP
OUT?

I THINK
THINGS
WILL BE
FINE...

But why
am I so
worried?



The
day...

In any case,
things are
moving
forward
step by
step...

We
can't
stop
now.

THANK
YOU.

...is
tomorrow
...







RECENTLY,
I'VE BEEN
LYING DOWN
OUT OF
EXHAUSTION
FROM
WORK.

WHEN
I WAS
LITTLE, I
DID IT SO
OFTEN.

ROLL



AH, IT'S
BEEN A
WHILE
SINCE I
LAST LAY
DOWN LIKE
THIS.



...USED TO
LOOK AT
THE BOOK
ABOUT THE
SURFACE.

FATHER
...



I WANTED TO
KEEP LYING
BESIDE
FATHER
FOREVER...



...HE MAY
BE ALIVE,
AND IS
ON THE
SURFACE.

BUT I
STILL
BELIEVE
SOME-
WHERE...



I CAN'T
REMEMBER
WHAT I
TALKED
WITH HIM
ABOUT
ANYMORE...

FWMP



Even if I
catch up
to you and
pull ahead
of you.

Even if I
don't have
a goal
anymore...

...my
future
will keep
continuing.



Father,
I'll...

...stand in
the same
place as
you, but in
a different
way.





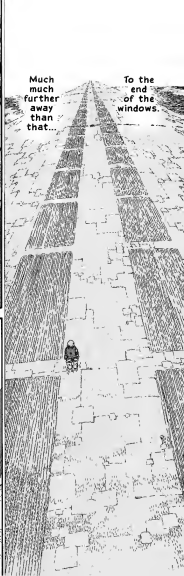
EVEN IF I FIND
OUT FATHER
ISN'T ON THE
SURFACE...

THERE'RE
SO MANY
THINGS
TO DO.



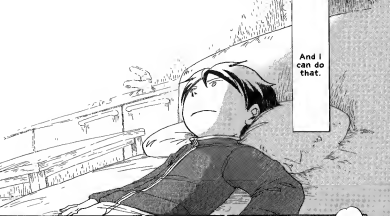
...MOVE
FORWARD
FROM
THERE.

...I'LL...



Much
further
away
than
that...

To the
end
of the
windows.



And I
can do
that.



A BOOK
ABOUT THE
SURFACE.
YOU'RE
TAKING THAT
WITH YOU?

YES.



TODAY YOU
CAN SLEEP
AT THE
FACTORY.
THAT ALL
RIGHT?



WOW
WOW

Y...

YES.



MR.
NISHI-
MARU.

THAT'S
GOOD.



HMM.



IF PEOPLE
FIND OUT WE'VE
BEEN LOCKED
UP HERE FOR
TWO WEEKS,
EVEN THE
UPPER-LEVEL
PEOPLE WILL
START MAKING
A FUSS.

YES.

IF THE
PROJECT
GOES WELL
AND PEOPLE
PAY ATTENTION
TO US, THE
LOWER LEVELS
WILL BE
OPENED UP
AGAIN.

Mitsu, you're gonna die due to an accident "the upper-level residents set up"...

I'M THE FIRST PRIVATE PERSON TO GO TO THE SURFACE.

All the lower levels will be full of resentment before that though.

YES.

THEN I'LL USE MY FIRST-TIME PRIVILEGE...

...TO MAKE A FRESH NEW WORLD...

...WHERE THERE'S NO UPPER OR LOWER LEVELS.



Whose
dream
was
that?



...WHERE
THERE'S
NO UPPER
OR
LOWER
LEVEL?



HA
HA.

IT WAS
MITSUO'S...
RIGHT?



...?



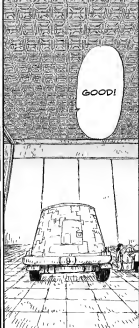
I WILL!

YES,
I'LL DO
"THAT."

...for
Makie's
sake.

Change
the
world...









And the day finally came.



DO
COME
BACK.



YES, AND
JIN AND
TAMACHI
TOO.





DON'T YOU
HAVE
ANYONE
YOU'RE IN
LOVE WITH?

TELL ME
BEFORE
YOU
LEAVE!



I MEAN,
WHEN
DID YOU
REALIZE
IT?!

WAH,
WHAT'RE
YOU
MAKING
ME SAY!



I LIKE
EVERYONE.

Sachi.

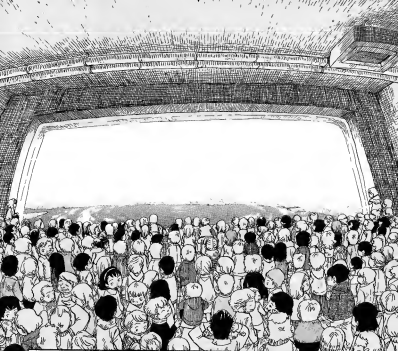


I'm not an
honor
student.

HEY! DON'T
ANSWER
LIKE YOU'RE
AN HONOR
STUDENT.

YOU FIND
SOMEONE
WHO'S
REALLY
IMPORTANT
TO YOU.

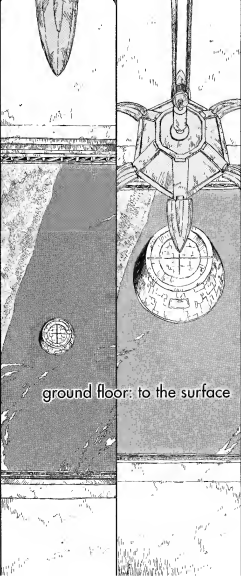
I like
you,
Sachi.



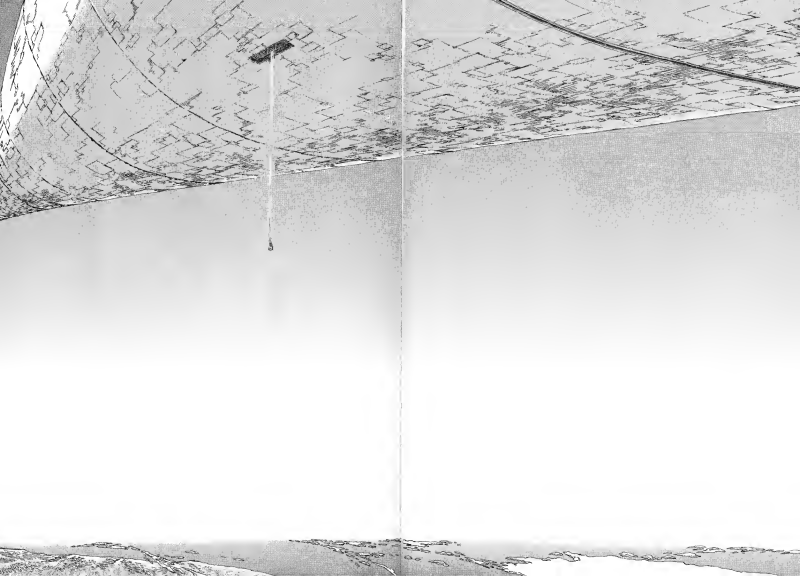
THINGS
WILL BE
ALRIGHT...



LET'S
GO.



ground floor: to the surface





RESIDENTS OF
THE UPPER AND
LOWER LEVELS,
AND EVERYONE IN
THE MIDDLE-LEVEL
ORGANIZATIONS,
CAN YOU HEAR US?



THE LOWER
LEVELS HAVE
BEEN CLOSED
OFF FOR TWO
WEEKS BECAUSE
A POWER PLANT
EXPLODED AND
A LARGE FIRE
ENSUED.



POISONOUS
GAS HAS
SPREAD, AND
WE'VE BEEN
LOCKED IN SO
OTHER AREAS
AREN'T
AFFECTED.



MR.
NISHIMARU.

AH.



UH...



EVERYONE,
CAN YOU
HEAR US?



EVERY-
BODY...

TEN
MINUTES
UNTIL
ARGO
BLASTS
OFF...



WE'RE
READY TO
BROADCAST!



IT JUST
CANNOT
BE!



TO
PROVE
IT...

...WE WILL
NOW
EXECUTE
A LARGE-
SCALE
PROJECT.



ALL OF YOU
UPPER-LEVEL
RESIDENTS,
YOUR SAFETY
IS BEING
PROTECTED
BY OUR
SACRIFICES.

WHY?

WHY
ARE WE
LOWER-
LEVEL
RESIDENTS
INFERIOR
TO YOU?

WHY ARE WE
INFERIOR TO
YOU, WHO ARE
GIVEN EVERY-
THING AND YET
STILL DON'T
FEEL THAT
YOU'RE
HAPPY?





Mitsu's value is as an emblem to begin the war between the upper levels and lower levels.

MITSU

THE BOY
MITSU HAS
ALREADY
BOARDED
THE
DESCENT
DEVICE AND
IS STANDING
READY.

PLEASE
GATHER
AROUND
YOUR
WINDOWS.

...TO THE
SURFACE
THAT IS JUST
BELOW OUR
EYES.

A BOY
WILL HEAD
ALONE...

I found
your
voice so
comforting,
it would
make me
drowsy...

You
used to
talk
about
your
dream.

I'm
sorry
I was
late.

TEN
SECONDS
UNTIL
ARGO
BLASTS
OFF...

NINE...

Makie...

EIGHT

FIVE...
FOUR

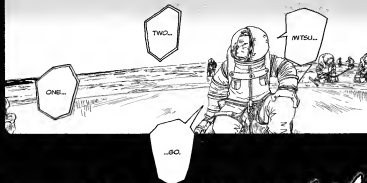
THREE

SEVEN.

SIX.

ARGO

ARGO



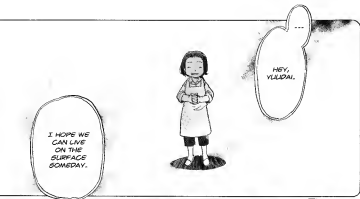
I'LL MAKE
A FRESH
NEW
WORLD.



Mitsu, your
naive words,
as if you were
simply copying
what somebody
else said, are
all going to
disappear.

I'll start
a war to
change
the world.
That is
Makie's
and my
dream.







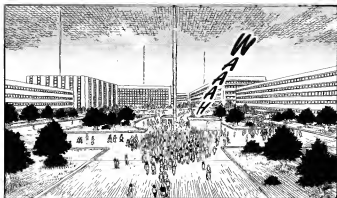


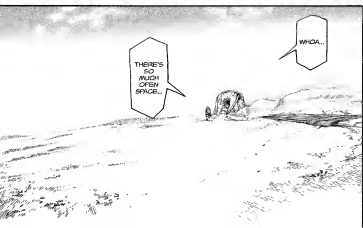


Everyone

Father



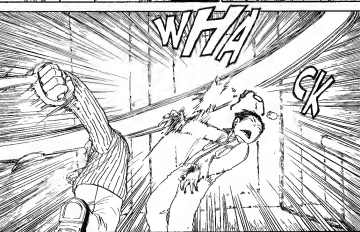














No, I...



"YOU
HAVEN'T
DONE
ANYTHING
WRONG...."

BOHTA
...



...ALMOST...

I...

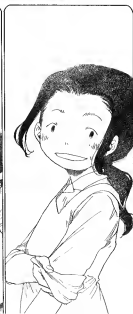


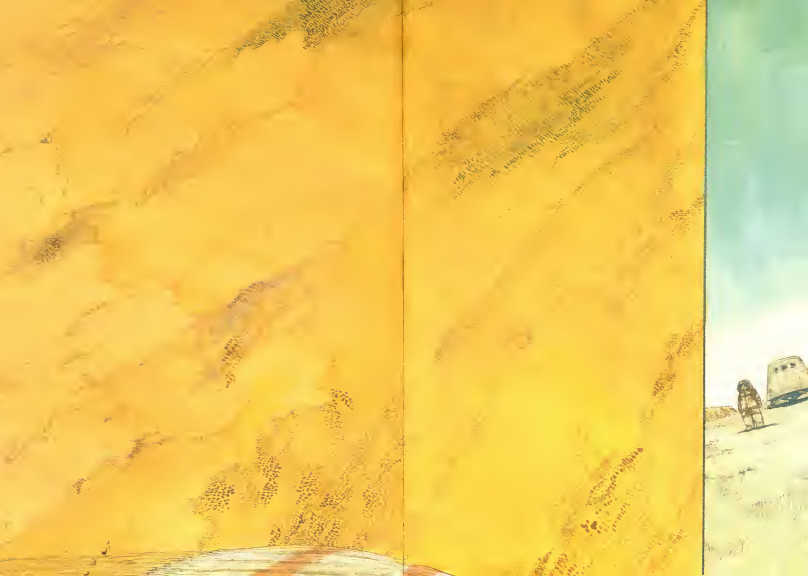
...to the
surface,
the three
of us...



AH,
YES.

LET
US
GO...











FATHER...
CAN YOU
HEAR ME?

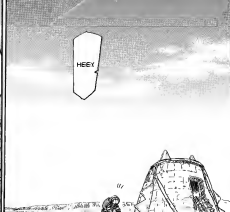


I'VE
ARRIVED...





HEEY.



HEEY



...SOME
ONE
HERE...



THERE'S
...



SO IT
REALLY IS
A CHILD.

YAPH.

ARE YOU THE
SURFACE
INVESTIGATION
TEAM?!



NO,
SURE.



I HOPE YOU
DON'T MIND
GOING BACK
WITH US?



WE'RE
INVESTIGATING
FALLING
OBJECTS FROM
RING AS WELL,
SO WE CAME
TO LOOK.

A GIRL
FROM
THE RING
CONTACTED
US.



YOU...

I KNOW...

...MIGHT BE
ARRESTED
WHEN YOU
RETURN TO
THE RING...



...SO YOU'LL HAVE
TO STAY HERE FOR
A WHILE BEFORE
YOU CAN RETURN...
WILL YOU BE ALL
RIGHT WITH THAT?

YES.

BUT WE STAY ON
THE SURFACE FOR
SIX MONTHS, AND
WE STILL HAVE
TWO MORE
MONTHS TO
INVESTIGATE...



YES.

! really say

YOU'RE...
AMAZING...



IT IS.



YOU'RE
LOOKING AT
THE RING
FROM
BELOW FOR
THE FIRST
TIME. HOW
DOES IT
LOOK?

ISN'T IT
BEAUTIFUL?



HOW
SHOULD
WE
MOVE
THIS?

LET'S
COME
GET IT
LATER...



OH..

THE FIRST
PEOPLE WHO
MIGRATED TO
THE RING ARE
THE CURRENT
LOWER-LEVEL
RESIDENTS.



...THOUGH THEY
ENDED UP BEING
FORCED TO
MOVE TO THE
LOWER LEVELS
BY THOSE WHO
MIGRATED
LATER...



THEY WERE
RESEARCHERS
AND THE WEALTHY
INTELLIGENTS WHO
SUPPORTED THE
DEVELOPMENT OF
THE RING SYSTEM.



EVERYONE IN
THE RING HAS
FORGOTTEN,
BUT EVERYONE
ON THE
SURFACE
KNOWS
ABOUT IT.

ISN'T THAT
INTERESTING?

We've
protected
that Ring
from
the very
beginning...

I SEE...
SO WE...



I WONDER
WHY

HOW?

DO YOU
KNOW WHY
THE RING
IS SO
BEAUTIFUL?

UM,
MISTER...





THE RING IS
BEAUTIFUL...

...BECAUSE
THE WINDOW
WASHERS
KEEP THE
WINDOWS
CLEAN.

We're
taking
care
of the
place
we
live...

...A
WINDOW
WASHER.

I'M...





Five
years
later

PRESIDENT
KAGEYAMA.

I'VE
RETURNED.

YEEH.

in the loft:
homeland in the sky



YEAH, SINCE YOU'VE BEEN USING YOUR HOME AS YOUR OFFICE.

WE'VE BEEN HIRING MORE EMPLOYEES, SO MAYBE IT'S TIME WE RENT AN OFFICE.



THANKS FOR TRAINING THE NEW EMPLOYEES.

NO PROBLEM.



...BUT THE UPPER-LEVEL PEOPLE WERE UNPLEASANT ...

I'VE BEEN UP THERE CUZ PASSING FOR THE UPPER LEVELS ARE EASIER TO GET COMPARED TO FIVE YEARS AGO...



GAH, I'D NEVER WANT TO LIVE UP THERE.

LET'S GO BIG AND AIM TO BECOME AN UPPER-LEVEL CORPORATION.



A COUPLE OF PEOPLE INVOLVED WITH THE PROJECT WENT TO JAIL.

SIX MONTHS.

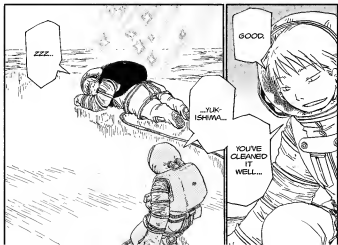
AND HE WAS DETAINED BY THE PUBLIC PEACE BUREAU... FOR A YEAR?

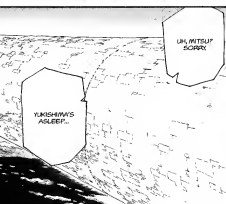
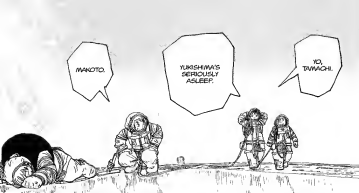


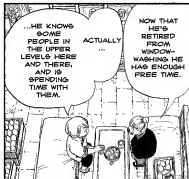
HE DID.

FIVE YEARS AGO...YOUR NEXT-DOOR NEIGHBOR WENT TO THE SURFACE.











...JIN WILL
BE FINE.

THEN
MITSU
SAID...



AND
I'D BE
LONELY.
IT WAS ALL
A JOKE
THOUGH.

WE TALKED
ABOUT WHAT
I'D DO IF JIN
LOST HIS
ENERGY AND
PASSED
AWAY.



THEN...

BUT IT'S
STILL
POSSIBLE.

KINAO



...HARUKO
CAN LIVE
WITH ME.

HEY!

WHAT
THE HELL
ARE YOU
SAYING?!

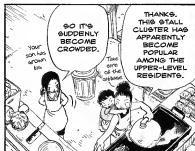
OK,
BYE

THAT'S
WHAT
HE
SAID.



WHAT
SHOULD
I DO?

OOH,
MITSU
ASKED
YOU TO
MARRY
HIM?





HE
SHIELDED
HIS HEAD
WITH HIS
RIGHT
HAND.



KAYO,
SOHTA
PROTECTED
HIMSELF.

SOHTA -

I AM
HAPPY YOU
SAVED HIS
LIFE.



Sohta

...BUT I'M
GLAD THEY
ACKNOWLEDGED
HIS DESCENT
DEVICE
PROJECT.



HIS RIGHT
HAND
NEVER HAS
COMPLETELY
HEALED...



YESTER-
DAY.

WHAA
?!



...I
GOT
MARRIED.

WHAP

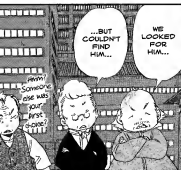


THANKS.



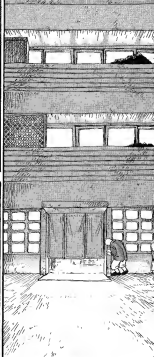
SACHI, I
WISH THE
BEST FOR
YOU TOO!







DADDY,
YOU'RE
NOT
GOING
IN?



FUYU...
KEEP
YOUR
VOICE
DOWN.

YOU'LL
BOTHER
OUR
NEIGHBORS



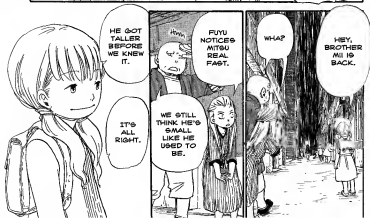
AH...



HEY!
WHERE'VE
YOU BEEN
ALL THIS
TIME!

UH, TODAY
I WENT
TO THE
HOSPITAL!





HEEY.



MITSUUU.





WELCOME HOME.

WELCOME HOME.



I'M HOME.



Mitsu,
take care.
Always
take care.

but I
can't, so I
decided to
see them
all.

I want
to be
with them for
a little
while
more...

I'm desperately
trying to stop
the characters
from leaving,
as they're
running away
from inside
me at an
amazing speed.

My sincere gratitude to
everyone involved: Arai,
Funika, Masumi Kasai,
Kubo, the R&D editorial
department, the printers
and bookstores, and all
of you readers.

This is the final
volume of Saturn
Apartments, and I
was able to reach
the ending. I had in
mind from the very
beginning.

HAVE
SOME
TEA.

HEY,
WAIT.

GOOD
JOB.

Let's stop
by a good
place to
eat.



THE END OF SATURN APARTMENTS 7



saturn
apartments





Fin.